

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 /165 W

-----088938 062334Z /70

P 062255Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4288
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL HALIFAX

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0756

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, CA, US
SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF U.S.-CANADIAN INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT
SUSPENSION

REF: VANCOUVER 750

1. VANCOUVER SUN LEAD EDITORIAL OF JUNE 6 STRONGLY CHASTISES BOTH CANADA AND THE U.S. FOR ALLOWING "AN ADMITTEDLY DELICATE SET OF NEGOTIATIONS" TO BE "TRANSFORMED INTO A CONFRONTATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE THAT EXAGGERATES BOTH IN SCOPE AND INTENT THE DIFFERENCES OF TWO FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS." IN FACE OF "INEVITABLE" AND "ULTIMATE" AGREEMENT, EDITORIAL FINDS IT "ALARMING" THAT "TWO ADULT DEMOCRACIES, WHO DEPEND ON EACH OTHER FOR SO MANY THINGS AND SHARE MORE THAN A COMMON BORDER ON MOST, SHOULD NOW BE ENGAGED IN SUCH A JUVENILE RITUAL". SUN EXPRESSES FEAR THAT "THE APPARENT ACCEPTANCE OF FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE" BY BOTH PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE HAS BECOME "AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO TALK" AND WILL LEAD TO A DANGEROUS INCIDENT. "THE ONLY WAY TO RESTORE SANITY TO
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THE RELATIONSHIP AND TO PREVENT A DETERIORATION THAT IS IN NOBODY'S INTERESTS IS FOR BOTH SIDES TO LAY DOWN THEIR PRIMITIVE 'ARMS' AND NEGOTIATE A TRUCE. BUT IT NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW (ITALICIZED)."

2. ADJACENT TO EDITORIAL APPEARS A LENGTHY COLUMN BY MICHAEL VALPY (OTTAWA-BASED ASSOCIATE SUN EDITOR) TITLED

"THE COUSINS AND THE FISH WAR." VALPY CHARACTERIZES THE FISHING DISPUTE AS "A PASSING PIECE OF INTERNATIONAL SULTRY BITCHINESS, A JUNE SQUALL BROUGHT ON BY CANADIAN POLITICIANS WHO WANT TO WAVE THE FLAG (PARTICULARLY TO THE BOYS ON THE BOATS) AND AMERICANS WHO WANT TO BE IRRITATINGLY LEGALISTIC." VALPY ATTRIBUTES THE "RECALCITRANCE" ON BOTH SIDES TO THE PROPOSITION THAT THE FISHING AGREEMENT IS OF REGIONAL, NOT NATIONAL, CONCERN AND THEREFORE UNDER THE AEGIS OF REGIONAL POLITICIANS WHO OVERLOOK THE "CALMER UTILITARIAN LOGIC OF BROADER NATIONAL INTERESTS" AND ARE GUIDED MORE BY THE FEELINGS OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS ("SOME VERY INDEPENDENT-MINDED FISHERMEN WHO ARE NOT RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S DEALING OUT COMPROMISES").

3. VALPY CRITICIZES AT LENGTH THE WORDING OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON THE SWIFTSURE BANK AND CONCLUDES THAT CANADIANS "ARE BEING MULISHLY DENSE IN THEIR INTERPRETATION" AND SHOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED BEFORE SIGNING THAT IT WAS "ONE OF THE MOST ONE-SIDED AGREEMENTS TOUCHING ON CANADIAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS SINCE THE BRITISH SIGNED AWAY THE ALASKAN PANHANDLE." VALPY SPECULATES THAT IF U.S. AND CANADIAN FISHERIES TEAMS HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO MAKE PUBLIC THEIR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS OF THE SWIFTSURE CONSERVATION ISSUE, "PROBABLY THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SCANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM."

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4. FRONT-PAGE NEWS STORIES CENTER ON QUESTION OF CANADIAN SPORT FISHING IN U.S. AND "INCIDENT" AT HAINES, ALASKA WHERE AN ALLEGED 150-200 CANADIAN SPORTSMEN WERE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMMUNITY'S ANNUAL SALMON DERBY BY U.S. COAST GUARD ACTION.

5. CLIPPINGS BEING MAILED TO EMBASSY AND EUR/CAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FISHING AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VANCOU00756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780236-0976
Format: TEL
From: VANCOUVER
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780689/aaaacypw.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43565e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 VANCOUVER 750
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2463623
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA COVERAGE OF U.S.-CANADIAN INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT SUSPENSION
TAGS: EFIS, SOPN, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43565e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014